

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, YO

SUBJECT: MIHAJLOV CASE

1. FEB. 24 PRESS ARTICLES (SENT TO YOU SEPTTEL) HAVE
PROMPTED MANY INQUIRIES TO DEPARTMENT FROM MEMBERS OF CON-
GRESS ABOUT MIHAJLOV'S PRESENT CONDITION. WE WOULD
APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU ARE ABLE TO DEVELOP ON SUB-
JECT.

2. WE HAVE PREPARED FOLLOWING GUIDANCE FOR BRIEFER IN
EVENT SUBJECT RAISED IN DEPARTMENT PRESS CONFERENCE:

--- Q. WHO IS MIHAJLOV?

--- A. MIHAJLO MIHAJLOV IS A YUGOSLAV WRITER AND FORMER

--- UNIVERSITY LECTURER WHO HAS BEEN IMPRISONED IN

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--- YUGOSLAVIA SEVERAL TIMES SINCE 1966 FOR HAVING

--- WRITTEN "HOSTILE PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE STATE"
--- WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE U.S. AND WESTERN
--- EUROPE. HE IS CURRENTLY SERVING A SEVEN-YEAR
--- PRISON SENTENCE WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER 1974.

--- Q. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MIHAJLOV'S CONDITION?

--- A. WE HAVE NOTHING TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE AMERICAN
--- PRESS ACCOUNTS OF MR. MIHAJLOV'S PRESENTLY BEING

--- NEAR DEATH AFTER A 2 1/2-MONTH HUNGER STRIKE AT
--- SREMSKA MITROVICA PRISON IN YUGOSLAVIA.

--- Q. WHAT IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOING ON MIHAJLOV'S
--- BEHALF?

--- A. THE CONCERNS FOR MR. MIHAJLOV'S SITUATION ON THE
--- PART OF AMERICANS, INCLUDING MIHAJLOV'S SISTER,
--- ARE VALID AND UNDERSTANDABLE. WE SHARE THESE
--- CONCERNS. SINCE THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT REGARDS
--- THIS MATTER AS A DOMESTIC AFFAIR, WE HAVE DIS-
--- CUSSED THE MIHAJLOV CASE ON AN INFORMAL AND UN-
--- OFFICIAL BASIS. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO YUGOSLAV
--- OFFICIALS OUR SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE APPARENT
--- VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CASE OF MR.
--- MIHAJLOV. OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT THE GREATEST
--- IMPACT ON THE YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES DERIVES FROM
--- THE KNOWLEDGE THAT CONCERN FOR MR. MIHAJLOV'S
--- WELFARE IS DEEP AND WIDESPREAD. IT IS FOUND
--- IN CONGRESS, IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS, AMONG
--- ACADEMICS IN MANY COUNTRIES, IN ORGANIZATIONS
--- SUCH AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND P.E.N. INTER-
--- NATIONAL, AND AMONG PRIVATE CITIZENS OUTSIDE
--- YUGOSLAVIA, INCLUDING, OF COURSE, MEMBERS OF
--- MR. MIHAJLOV'S FAMILY HERE IN THE U.S. (MR.
--- MIHAJLOV'S SISTER IS A U.S. CITIZEN, HIS MOTHER
---" A RESIDENT ALIEN.) KISSINGER

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